

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals/Office of Public Health

Reporting of Oil Spill Health Related Affects

Goal

To obtain and evaluate in a timely manner reports from hospitals and medical providers across Louisiana that treat individuals who have an injury or illness related to the oil spill.

Distribution of Protocol

1. Protocol to be emailed to Dr. Rosanne Prats for distribution to appropriate DHH agencies including Hospitals, EMS, and Bureau of Primary Care and OPH Leadership.
2. Protocol to be sent to Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI) who will email 93 primary care clinics funded through their Primary Care Access and Stabilization Grant. Contact: Maria Ludwick
3. Protocol to be sent to Dr. Jim Aiken, Chair, Louisiana State Medical Society Council on Public Health who has offered to disseminate info to state physicians.
4. Protocol will also be posted on DHH website.
5. Protocol will be sent to select occupational and primary care centers, and urgent care centers near affected areas; list compiled by SEET.

Reporting of Health Complaints to OPH:

Cases may be reported to DHH/OPH SEET either by email (group email being created on 6/1/10) , fax (225-342-8117) or 24/7 toll free hotline (888-293-7020). The hotline will be the method of choice for afterhours reporting. For urgent reporting needs, healthcare providers will also be encouraged to call the hotline. Once information is received, SEET staff will contact the healthcare provider for more detailed information about each case. In some cases, patients may also be contacted by SEET for additional follow-up.

Acute health complaints requiring treatment information shall still be routed to the Poison Control Center available 24/7. SEET and PCC will continue their routine communications with each other to ensure all health complaints are captured.

Health Complaint Summaries

SEET will share brief summaries of reported health complaints in daily sit-reps for DHH internal use. This report will include number of patients treated, occupational vs. non-occupational exposures, and location of where treatment occurred by parish or region.

SEET will also provide a detailed Surveillance Report on a regular basis, presenting aggregate summaries of types of exposures, location of exposures, related health affects, etc. This will be a public document that may be share with NIOSH, BP, and the community as needed. This document will be similar to the surveillance reports produced by Infectious Disease Epidemiology for the H1N1 outbreak.

Accessing regional support staff:

If individual case follow-up is needed within the regions, (hospital refuses to provide information, face-to-face interview needed), Infectious Disease Epidemiology may be contacted to have their regional staff provide that assistance.

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